

Message Text

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72

ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 IO-14 ISO-00 AID-20 OMB-01 CIAE-00

DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-11 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04

RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20 USIA-15 DRC-01 /155 W

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R 021651Z AUG 74

FM AMEMBASSY LONDON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2725

INFO AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

UNCLAS LONDON 09876

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINS, SF, WA, UK

SUBJECT: REPORTED KILLINGS IN NAMIBIA

REF: STATE 163176

1. AS FAR AS WE ARE AWARE THERE HAVE BEEN TWO PRESS STORIES CONCERNING SWEDISH JOURNALISTS' VISIT TO NAMIBIA. (BOTH POUCHED AF/P.) FIRST ITEM APPEARED IN THE GUARDIAN ON JULY 25. IT WAS ENTITLED, "SLAUGHTER IN CAPRIVI STRIP," AND WAS WRITTEN BY WILLIAM RAYNOR. ARTICLE BASED ON REPORT OF SWEDISH TELEVISION CREW AND MONOCHROME STILLS FROM THEIR DOCUMENTARY WHICH WERE SHOWN BY LOCAL SWAPO REPRESENTATIVE TO MEMBERS OF UN COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS WHO VISITED LONDON IN JUNE. IN ATTEMPTING TO ANALYZE THIS EVIDENCE RAYNOR SAYS STILLS WERE GRUESOME, "BUT CONSIDERED ON THEIR OWN, ARE VERY INCONCLUSIVE." HE GOES ON TO SAY, "BUT IN ASSESSING THE AUTHENTICITY OF THE ALLEGATION AND THE STILLS, THE RECORD OF THE SOUTH AFRICAN POLICE, BOTH IN SOUTH AFRICA
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AND IN NAMIBIA, HAS TO BE TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT, AS DOES

THE FACT THAT OFFICIALLY AT LEAST, PRETORIA HAS UNTIL VERY RECENTLY BEEN FIGHTING A PARAMILITARY, RATHER THAN PURELY MILITARY WAR AGAINST SWAPO ON A FAR-FLUNG FRONTIER." COMMENT ON USE OF PARAMILITARY RATHER THAN PURELY MILITARY FORCES IS LATER EXPLAINED BY COMMENT THAT PARAMILITARY FORCES ARE MORE DRACONIAN AND LESS SUBJECT TO CONTROL IN ANTI-GUERRILLA WARFARE THAN CONVENTIONAL ARMY UNITS.

2. SECOND ITEM APPEARED IN TIMES ARTICLE ON AUGUST 1, "SOUTH AFRICA THROWS CAUTION TO THE WINDS IN NAMIBIA," WRITTEN BY GUY ARNOLD. THIS ARTICLE IS LEAD STORY ON CURRENT SITUATION IN NAMIBIA AND BY WAY OF ILLUSTRATION NOTES THAT SWEDISH TELEVISION TEAM HAD REPORTED MASSACRE.

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Message Attributes

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Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
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30 JUN 2005

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